

REMARKS

The specification is amended to denote registered trademarks. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-2, 7-8, and 11-19 are amended without the addition of new matter to limit the scope of the claims to a display of a visualization of a network comprising a plurality of interconnected nodes, the nodes having attributes. The claims are amended to recite manipulating zoom and pan of the display of icons representing network nodes, as distinguished from the underlying nodes themselves. Support for these amendments is found throughout Applicants' specification, and in particular, at least at Figures 3 and 4, and ¶ 0015.

Claims 5-6 and 9-10 are cancelled without prejudice to a continuation filing.

New claims 20-23 are added without the addition of new matter. Claims 20-23 find support in Applicants' specification as filed at least at ¶ 0015.

Claims 1-4, 7-8, and 11-23 are now pending. All pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 14, 16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0025812 to Slatter et al. ("Slatter") in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,341,310 to Leshem et al. ("Leshem"). To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. MPEP § 2143. The combination of Slatter and fails Leshem to teach or suggest all limitations of claims 1, 14, 16, or 18.

Slatter discloses an image viewing system providing feature selection and pan/zoom control in viewing images from a digital camera. ¶¶ 0001-0002, Figs. 1-3. In particular, Slatter automatically pans the display as a user changes the zoom level, to include the maximum number of faces in an image. With reference to Figure 2 and ¶ 0050, Slatter discloses that at an initial zoom crop boundary 45 (i.e., the entire image), the center point is point 46. As user zooms in, for example to the crop boundary 48, the center point (which controls panning) moves to

point 47, so as to include the faces of subjects 41 and 42 in the displayed image. Slatter does not teach or suggest manipulating a visualization of a network comprising a plurality of interconnected nodes.

The independent claims are amended herein, not only to limit the scope to visualizations of networks, but additionally to make explicit a clear distinction between an underlying network node, which has attributes, and an icon representing the network node in the visualization. All panning and zooming operations are recited as operating on, or with respect to, the icons – not the network nodes. However, it is also clear in the claims as amended that the attributes, which are related to an operational characteristic or status of a node, are owned by the network nodes, not the icons representing those nodes in the visualization. The display of icons is controlled by the values of the attributes of the underlying nodes. Compare, e.g., claim 11, assigning priority to network nodes based on their attributes, to claim 12, displaying the maximum number of icons representing the high priority nodes. This manipulation of the display of icons in a visualization of a network, based on attributes owned by the underlying network nodes, is a key feature of the claimed invention.

Slatter operates on a “flat” image, and “assign[s] an ‘interest rating’ to each part of the image indicative of the difference in colour and intensity between adjacent parts of the image or difference in colour from [sic] that occupy the largest area in the image.” ¶ 0056. These “interest ratings” are then used to intelligently determine the pan centerpoint when zooming, as discussed above. ¶ 0057. Slatter thus operates only on attributes (color and intensity) of the image. Slatter does not teach or suggest manipulating a display based on attributes of the underlying object. For example, expounding on Slatter’s example image in Figure 2 of three individuals, Slatter’s manipulation of the zoom centerpoint is based entirely on the representations of the individuals as captured in the image (color and intensity). Slatter does not remotely suggest manipulating the display of the image based on characteristics (attributes) of

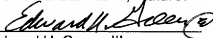
the underlying individuals, such as age, sex, nationality, religion, or the like. Accordingly, apart from being completely nonanalogous art to a visualization of a network, Slatter does not teach or suggest intelligent zoom or pan of a display of representations of objects (images of people; icons representing network nodes) based on attributes of the represented entity (people; network nodes).

Leshem discloses a visual, graphical display of website content. The display is organized to make readily apparent certain structural features of the website links. For example, linked pages that themselves include further links are displayed radially spaced from a starting page, compared to linked pages that do not link elsewhere. Leshem does not teach or suggest a visualization of a network comprising interconnected nodes, the nodes having attributes and being represented in the visualization by icons.

The combination of Slatter and Leshem does not teach or suggest a visualization of a network comprising interconnected nodes, the nodes having attributes and being represented in the visualization by icons, wherein zoom and pan operations on the visualization intelligently display the largest number of icons representing network nodes of interest based on the underlying nodes' attributes. For at least this reason, the § 103 rejections of claims 1, 14, 17, and 18 are improper and must be withdrawn.

All dependent claims include all limitations of their respective parent claim(s), and thus also define patentable nonobviousness over the art of record. All pending claims are now in condition for allowance, which prompt action is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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